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## Ex-President Of Siamese Parliament Arrested

Bangkok, Nov. 13.—Pung Srichand, President of the dissolved Siamese House of Representatives, was reported today to have been arrested yesterday evening after attempting to convene the House.

The report said that Pung Srichand presided over a meeting in Parliament House yesterday, attended by 19 representatives, but adjourned the meeting after declaring that there was no quorum.

Those attending the meeting belonged to the Sahachep Party and Constitutional Front parties which supported the former government of Luang Phibul Songgram.

Their total strength in the House was 185.

### FIGHTING DENIED

Luang Kovid Abhaiwongse, the new Prime Minister, today denied rumours that fighting had broken out between the Siamese Army and the "Siamese people's resistance forces."

Other reports today stated that the military were rounding up "Free Thai" elements after members of the movement had been summoned to military headquarters last night.

The Siamese military command was understood to have decided to invite King Phumphon Adulet to return to Siam from Switzerland for his 21st birthday celebrations next month.

Luang Abhaiwongse, former leader of the Opposition, assumed office with a 21-man Cabinet this morning. No statement of policy was made but it was understood that Phum Phon Srinan Vachin, the Foreign Minister, may meet foreign diplomats on Friday.

### BIGGER RICE RATION

The British and American Embassies in Bangkok categorically denied a report that their Ambassadors had met Phum Phon Songgram. They stated that the military public relations officer was misinterpreted when he said that diplomatic representatives had met the Marshal.

In an order issued today, the new Siamese Government increased the rice ration in the Bangkok area and cancelled nearly all previous regulations governing rice distribution.

Restrictions of the transport of rice throughout the country were removed and the previous ceiling prices were cancelled.

The Bangkok Chamber of Commerce and the Chinese Chamber met in a joint session today to discuss means of carrying out the military command's request to reduce rice prices and release available stocks.—Reuter.

## EDITORIAL

### Anti-TB: A New Policy

NOTHING could more clearly illustrate the extent to which Tuberculosis is menacing the health of Hongkong than Dr. Newton's revelations to the press on Wednesday. One in seven showed symptoms of the disease when 2,246 people underwent X-Ray examinations; and there were 433 notifications of TB in one month with 118 deaths. Disturbing too was Dr. Newton's disclosure that the number of beds available for TB cases was hopelessly inadequate, making it impossible to put all the patients in hospital. This situation—magnitude of incidence and insufficient facilities for proper treatment—has forced the Medical Department to abandon a curative programme for one of prevention. Normally the two should be operating parallel, and the fact that this is not possible points an accusing finger at Government for having neglected the problem of hospital accommodation. The admission is now made, two years after re-occupation, that the incidence of Tuberculosis is out of hand; that the vast majority of those already afflicted with the disease cannot hope for full treatment and must take their chances of survival; and that policy must be changed to prevention rather than cure. It is not a pretty story, and it can only be hoped that the proposed measures to deal with the problem will be as effective as Dr. Newton forecasts. The Director of Medical Services is of the opinion that by devoting full attention to preventing cases, it will be possible after 10 years to start curing, because by then the spread of the disease should have been checked. To achieve his aim, the Director of Medical Services intends to ask for the establishment of two clinics, to be conducted by a TB officer from England, assisted by Hongkong medical officers. The clinics are to be well equipped and provided with amonitors and health visitors. Another aspect of the Medical Department's programme is the provision next year of \$350,000 to purchase extra food for TB patients coming out of hospital, the precaution being taken to cook the food to discourage the patients from selling it or giving it to others. Within its limitations, the prevention scheme can be expected to accomplish useful work, but the bitter pill which nobody will relish is the inference contained in Dr. Newton's statement that Hongkong's TB sufferers will have to wait another 10 years before there will be proper facilities for an all-out curative programme.

## DALTON RESIGNS

### That Stork Nonsense

London, Nov. 13.—After hearing a call to do away with "stork and gooseberry bush nonsense," the Assembly of the Church of England today endorsed a resolution urging that the clergy should give high priority to their pastoral duty of providing Christian sex education, preparation for marriage, and guidance in the case of marriage difficulty.

More adequate training for churchmen in sex matters was also demanded.

Moving the resolution, the Bishop of Norwich said that "easy facilities for divorce had destroyed, I suppose for the first time in history, the underlying assumption of what Christian marriage means."

"I do not deny that in some respects the breakdown is our own fault," he added. "We cannot wholly blame the people for the wrong ideas they hold with regard to marriage unless we are quite sure that we have done everything to give them the right ideas, and I doubt whether we have done this."

The reference to stork and gooseberry bush nonsense was made by a woman delegate who said that they should have the courage to state the facts about the birth of a baby.—Reuter.

## ATTACK ON POLICE HQ

### Rioting In Naples

Naples, Nov. 13.—The Italian police used a large number of tear gas bombs to repulse an attack on their headquarters here today by a large crowd of Leftwing demonstrators.

Police armoured cars were called out to clear the central thoroughfares of the city as crowds surged through the streets trying to force entry into Rightwing newspaper offices and burning all copies of Rightwing newspapers on news-stands.

The crowds were demonstrating in sympathy with Leftwing groups in Milan who besieged the police headquarters yesterday and destroyed the offices of the Rightwing daily newspaper *Mattino d'Italia*.

In Milan today, crowds tried to force their way into a Rightwing newspaper premises. They seized all copies of Rightwing newspaper displayed on news-stands and burned them.

After their repulse at the police headquarters, the demonstrators forced their way into the headquarters of the Monarchist Party and wrecked the offices.

Doors, chairs and records were thrown out into the streets and burned before the police could restore order.—Reuter.

## Indiscreetly Reveals Budget To Newspaper

### CRIPPS AS SUCCESSOR

London, Nov. 13.—Mr Hugh Dalton, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, has resigned. Sir Stafford Cripps, Minister for Economic Affairs, has been appointed to succeed him.

Sir Stafford Cripps will continue to co-ordinate economic affairs, which task he is virtually director of the whole economic life of this country.

These sensational developments were announced from the Prime Minister's residence late tonight. They followed rumours in the House of Commons that Mr Dalton had offered to resign after his admission in the House this afternoon that he had given some of the contents of his budget yesterday to a London evening newspaper before he disclosed it in Parliament.

The Prime Minister, Mr Clement Attlee, in a letter to Mr Dalton, released tonight, said: "I realise that this indiscretion, in itself, did not result in any action detrimental to the State, but the principle of the inviolability of the budget is of the highest importance and the discretion of the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who necessarily receives many confidential communications, must be beyond question."

This letter was a reply to one from Mr Dalton dated this morning which read: "In view of the incident which was raised today in the House of Commons, I think it is my duty to offer you my resignation. If you accept it, I shall continue, though now outside its ranks, to do my utmost to support the Government in carrying through the programme, to which we are all pledged."

Mr Dalton's letter continued: "I shall continue in Parliament, and outside, to give all the loyal service in my power to the Labour Party, in which you and I have worked together as comrades for so many years."

Earlier, Mr Dalton had apologised to the House of Commons for his "grave indiscretion" by indicating to a correspondent by a London evening paper the subject matter of his budget proposals before he had announced them to the Commons later in the afternoon.

Mr Dalton had been asked if he had instituted an inquiry into the source of information published by the London Star, containing an accurate forecast of the budget proposals. Mr Dalton replied: "I very much regret to tell the House that the publication arose out of an incident which occurred as I was entering the Chamber to make my speech yesterday."

"In reply to a question put to me by a lobby correspondent of the Star I indicated to him the subject matter contained in the publication in question."

"I appreciate that this was a grave indiscretion on my part for which I offer my deep apologies to the House."

On behalf of the Opposition, Mr Winston Churchill said that he acknowledged the "very frank manner in which the Chancellor of the Exchequer has expressed himself to the House and our sympathy with him on the misuse of his confidence which has occurred."

**ADMITS INDISCRETION**

Replying to questions whether the correspondent knew it was a friendly though perhaps ill-judged statement or whether it was immediate publication, Mr Dalton said: "I take the blame for having committed an indiscretion in my relationship with this correspondent whom I have known as we have known so many lobby correspondents over a period of years."

(The edition of the Star in question was on sale at 3.45 p.m. GMT. The budget proposals were not announced in the House until after 4 p.m. GMT.)

This was the first time since 1936 that there had been a leakage of information about the budget—traditionally the best kept secret of Government policy.

In 1936, after a long and detailed inquiry by a special tribunal, a former Colonial Secretary, Mr J. H. Thomas, was found guilty of "unauthorised disclosure" of budget information.

Mr Thomas, who, as a member of the Cabinet, was one of the few to

receive advance information about the budget's contents, resigned his Cabinet post but retained his Parliamentary seat.—Reuter.

### BUDGET CRITICISED

London, Nov. 13.—The Conservative Opposition today attacked the anti-inflation budget, which was announced yesterday by Mr Hugh Dalton, as being inadequate and hinted that Mr Dalton might be "gambling" with Britain's chance of economic survival.

Mr Oliver Stanley, former Conservative Colonial Secretary, resuming the debate on the budget in the House of Commons today, said that everyone was agreed that the inflation gap was greatly in excess of that covered by the Chancellor of the Exchequer's proposals.

He asked if this was an "honourable, determined and final" attempt to avert danger or "just another gamble," taken in the hope that something would turn up.

If the Chancellor was gambling, it was with the whole chance of Britain's economic survival.

"It is with real sincerity that we say we hope for the best. It is with equal sincerity, knowing this Government, that we fear the worst," Mr Stanley concluded.—Reuter.

**BUSINESSMEN'S REACTIONS**

London, Nov. 13.—Prominent British economists and businessmen today said that the Government's real anti-inflationary policy must be based on physical controls (including "direction" labour), sales of gold and other overseas assets, and Marshall aid.

Since yesterday's budget was designed to absorb only £40,000,000 of inflationary potential by March 31, and since Britain will be getting no stop-gap United States aid by that date, the onus falls on the physical controls and on living on reserves.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer himself appears to accept this view. The whole grave tone of his announcement last night contrasted markedly with his own previous abounding optimism.

He said that the present emergency was no less serious than the war. Unless courageously faced (which nobody regards his budget as doing), "it will vitally undermine our standard of life and even endanger our national survival."

"We are having to use our last reserves of gold and dollars to meet the bill."

"But we cannot allow our gold reserves to fall below the safety level."

Living on reserves does, of course, keep the inflation off the premises. It need not wholly fall on the gold reserves. Now money from such things as the sale of British-owned railways in South America, would have the same effect, while all the money from such sales, old money as well as new, could, unless counteracted by an appropriate credit policy, powerfully reinforce the Chancellor of the Exchequer's cheap money policy and boost the gilt-edged market.

The whole tenor of the Harriman report and other responsible American comment is that such policies ought not to be pursued: in particular, that the Americans ought to control the Marshall dollars so as to ensure that European Finance Ministers do not use them as a way of evading their own anti-inflationary responsibilities. But unquestionably the Chancellor of the Exchequer can pursue this policy if he chooses, and he appears to be doing it.—Reuter.



MR. HUGH DALTON

## Harriman's Aid Europe Suggestion

### Nothing For Future Soviet Satellites

Washington, Nov. 13.—The United States Secretary of Commerce, Mr Averell Harriman, told the House of Representatives Foreign Affairs Committee today that he favoured the stopping at once of any American aid to any nation if it came under Russian influence in the future.

Asked about his attitude if such a case arose, Mr Harriman, testifying on behalf of the Administration's proposed \$597,000,000 emergency assistance for France, Italy and Austria, said: "I would then lose interest in it in that particular country."

Mr Harriman said that he believed that the United States should hold itself ready to extend help to the nations of Eastern Europe if they should free themselves of Russian "domination."

He added that certain of these nations would have "liked to come in and work with us" but were prevented from doing so by the Russians.

"Poland, Hungary and Rumania are very friendly to us and have been forced into the iron vice against their will," he said.

**AGAINST SANCTIONS**

Mr Harriman said that he did not agree with an imposition of economic sanctions against Russian "satellite" countries but felt that United States resources and equipment needed for European rehabilitation should be sent to those countries.

The quickening of trade between all countries of Europe and the remainder of the world would probably start a movement which would result in "rolling down" the iron curtain and the satellites into the fuller relationships of peace and prosperity with the rest of Europe,—he added.

Senator Arthur Vandenberg, the Republican Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, suggested today that certain European countries might pay for American aid under the Marshall plan by the shipment of uranium—a vital element in the atom bomb—to the United States.

Senator Vandenberg, who made this suggestion on the fourth day of the Committee hearings on American aid programmes, suggested the Belgian Congo in particular as a source of uranium for the United States.

**A POSSIBILITY**

Mr William Phillips, of the State Department's International Trade Policy Office, did not give a direct reply to Senator Vandenberg's suggestion but admitted that "the higher realms of Government were giving consideration to this possibility."

Officials of the Department of the Interior were testifying before the Committee regarding the ability of (Continued On Page 4)

## Britain Willing To Leave Palestine By Next August

### ASSURANCE ABOUT TROOPS

Lake Success, N.Y., Nov. 13.—Britain would not use her troops to enforce the partition of Palestine, Sir Alexander Cadogan, permanent British delegate to the United Nations, told the Palestine Partition Sub-Committee here today.

Britain was prepared to evacuate Palestine by August, 1948, he added.

Sir Alexander said that there were two aspects of this withdrawal: military and civil.

On the military side, every effort is being made to reduce to a minimum the period required for operation. It is still not possible to forecast exactly how long it will take to withdraw from Palestine, not only the troops, but also their supplies.

"I am authorised to state that our authorities have been directed to plan for an evacuation to be completed by August 1, 1948. As long as British troops remain in any part of Palestine, they must, of course, maintain law and order in the areas of which they still are in occupation."

"I am instructed, however, to make it clear that British troops would not be available as instrument for the enforcement of a settlement in Palestine against either Arabs or Jews."

### RIGHT RESERVED

"The fact that it would be impracticable to withdraw the last military contingents from Palestine before next summer does not imply by any means that we shall continue to maintain the civil administration in Palestine throughout the intervening period," Sir Alexander added.

"On the contrary," he said, "we reserve the right to lay down the mandate and bring our civil administration to an end at any time after it has been made evident that no settlement acceptable to Jews and Arabs has been reached by the Assembly."

"In that event, there would be an interval between the termination of the mandate and the withdrawal of the last British troops."

"During that interval, His Majesty's Government would no longer maintain a civil administration in Palestine and would confine themselves to preserving order in the areas still controlled by their remaining forces."

"It follows, and I think it is my duty to the Sub-Committee to remove any doubt upon this point without further delay, that if the United Nations were at work in Palestine taking preparatory steps for a settlement, which would require enforcement, it must not expect the British authorities either to exercise administrative responsibility, or to maintain law and order except in limited areas, of which they would necessarily remain in occupation during the process of withdrawal," concluded Sir Alexander.—Reuter.

**CABINET DISCUSSION**

London, Nov. 13.—The date for the beginning of the British withdrawal from Palestine will be very soon after the United Nations Assembly's decision on Palestine has been announced, it was suggested in informed quarters here today.

The Cabinet was understood to have discussed today's provisional dates for the withdrawal, but until the United Nations has proposed the reports of its Palestine Sub-Committee, final British arrangements are believed unlikely to be disclosed.

The Colonial Secretary, Mr Arthur Creech Jones, who returned from New York for consultations with members of the Cabinet, was earlier expected to return to the United Nations Assembly for its final deli-

berations on Palestine, but it was suggested that Mr Creech Jones might not now consider it imperative to return, as Sir Alexander Cadogan has been handling the Palestine issue for Britain.—Reuter.

**POLICEMAN KILLED**

Jerusalem, Nov. 13.—A British policeman was shot dead when Jewish gunmen tonight ambushed a police patrol in King George Avenue, Jerusalem, tonight, according to reports here.

A number of British servicemen and at least three Jews were reported wounded, when two bombs were hurled into the Ritz Cafe.

The figure of seven British soldiers earlier reported killed in the bomb outrage was later officially stated to be "exaggerated." Jewish sources said that between two and four were feared dead, while British Army sources stated that at least 14 British soldiers were injured.—Reuter.

## WAR MEDALS NEXT YEAR

London, Nov. 13.—The issue of campaign stars, the Defence Medal and the War Medal was not expected to begin until late in 1948, and no application for them should be made at present, Mr Clement Attlee, the Prime Minister, said in reply to a question in the House of Commons today.

Decorations and medals granted as individual awards were being issued in accordance with Gazette announcements.

In a further reply concerning medals, Mr Attlee said that His Majesty the King had approved proposals for granting of the General Service Medal for specified services in Palestine since September 17, 1945.

Asked whether the specification would cover Navy personnel who served in Palestine waters and took part in the interception of immigrant ships, the Prime Minister replied that a short White Paper had been issued giving full details.—Reuter.

## CHOLERA SERUM FOR ARABIA

Shanghai, Nov. 13.—A C-54 Sky-master of the Far East Air Force, carrying 2,000,000 units of cholera serum for Arabia, arrived here today from Tokyo.

The plane, which is the second mercy ship for the Near East since October, is picking up more serum in Shanghai furnished by the Chinese government and is expected to take off on Friday morning bound for Jidda, Saudi Arabia. The first plane on October 25 carried cholera serum to Cairo.—United Press.

## CENTENARIAN DIES

Cambridge, Nov. 13.—Britain's oldest clergyman, the Reverend Arthur Scovell, died here today at the age of 106.

He had been a priest of the Church of England for 60 years.—Reuter.

## Lawton Transferred To Notts County

London, Nov. 13.—Tommy Lawton, the Chelsea and International centre-forward, was transferred today to a third division club which paid the highest fee in the history of the English Football Association—understood to be about £17,000.

Notts County, the third division club, outbid wealthy first division clubs after negotiations lasting since August when Lawton asked his own team, Chelsea, to transfer him following a disagreement. He had played for Chelsea, one of the 22 teams in the first division, for two years, and had played for England in the International against Scotland, Ireland, Wales and Continental teams 50 times.

A Notts player, W. Dickson, a left halfback, whose market value is rated at about £3,000, was part of

the exchange, thus raising the fee involved to about £20,000.

It is exactly two years since Lawton joined Chelsea from Everton at a fee of £11,500.

Notts County Club have provided a house for Lawton, who will also take up a lucrative business appointment outside football in Nottingham.

Lawton is the third International centre-forward signed by Notts County in recent years, the others being the famous Scot, Hugh Gallacher, in 1936, and Dixie Dean of England two years later.

Lawton will play for Notts County against Northampton on Saturday, and retains his place in England's team against Sweden at Highbury on November 16.—Reuter.

### FRANCE'S TEAM

Paris, Nov. 13.—The French Football Association today announced that the French team to meet

Portugal at Lisbon on November 23, would be chosen from the following players:

Goal—Julien Darrat. Backs—Andre Grillon, Roger Marche, Segundo Pascual, Halfbacks—Andre Culevard, Jean Gregoire, Jean Prouff. Forwards—Louis Hon, Ernest Vnas, Darel, Jean Baratte, Oscar Heisserer and Rene Alpaget.

All these players will make the trip to Lisbon but the team will not be selected until shortly before the match.—Reuter.

**JAMAICAN WINS**

Dundee, Nov. 13.—Roy Peterson of Jamaica, won his first fight in Great Britain when he beat the Doncaster middleweight, Jack Brown, here last night. The referee stopped the fight in the fifth round.

Peterson went right in with a two-handed attack to the body and also scored well with left hooks and solid right counters.—Reuter.



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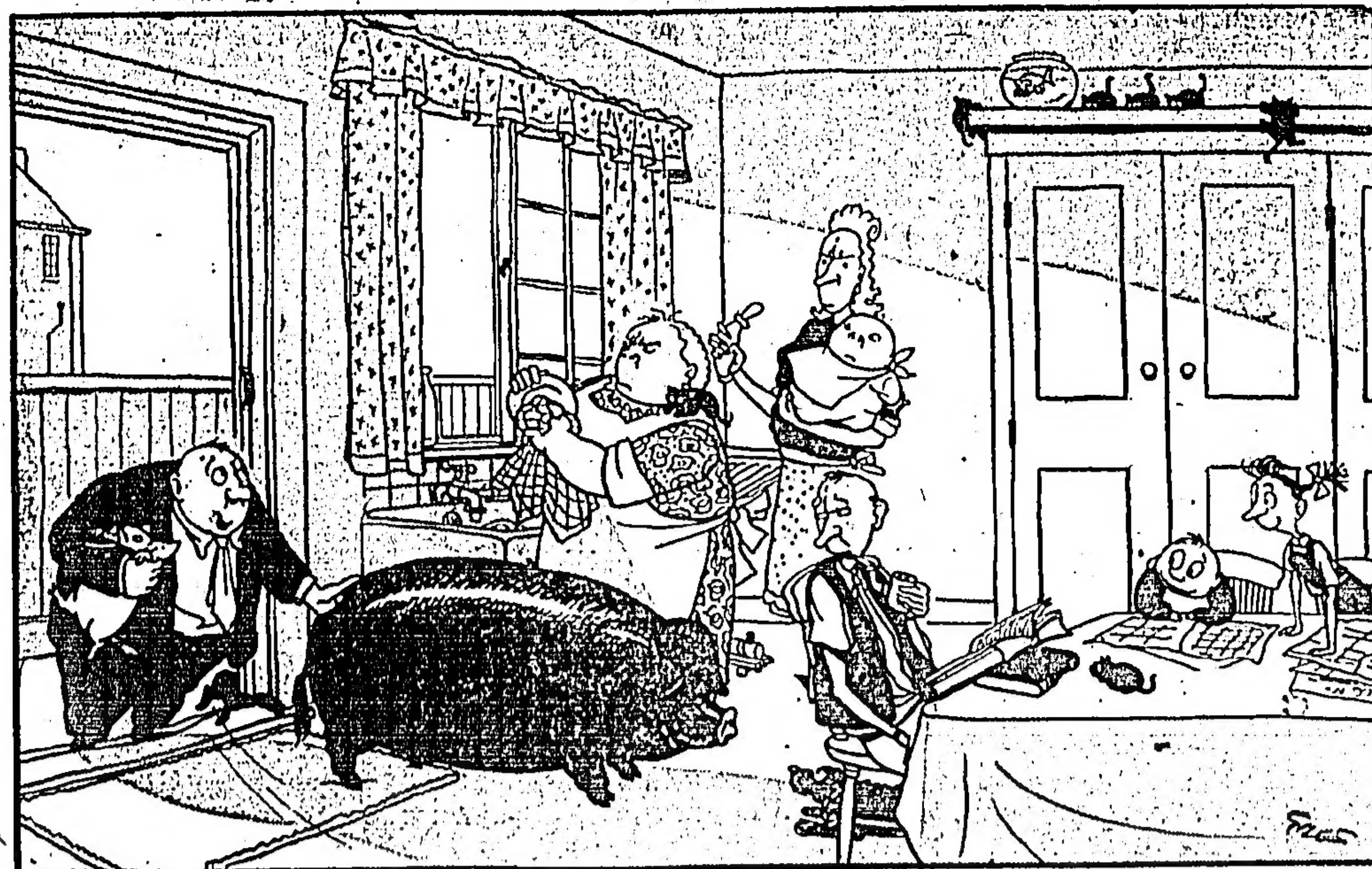
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"I met a man who said: 'You want to buy pigs—there'll be money in pigs in a year or two,' he said."

## THE LONELIEST WOMEN IN THE WORLD .... by

**ALVIN STEINKOPF**

RUSSIA obviously would like to drop the subject, but millions of sentimental and outraged Britons are constantly reminding the Soviet Union that it is holding within its borders 15 wives of Englishmen.

For two years the English husbands, back from military and diplomatic service in the Soviet Union, have been trying to bring the Russian girls they married to homes in the United Kingdom.

Every conceivable approach to obtain the necessary travel documents has been tried, and up to now has failed.

The answer invariably has been "no." It has not been just a thoughtless refusal by a busy bureaucrat. It is policy. The British husbands, aided by their government, have pushed their petition right up to the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, highest authority in the Union. The answer, which must have passed the review of Generalissimo Stalin himself, was the familiar "no." Vyacheslav Molotov, Minister for Foreign Affairs, and his deputy, Andrei Vyshinsky, have vetoed the pleas of husbands and denied the prayers of the Russian girls who want to join the men they married.

"The loneliest women in the world," a London headline called them.

Regarding their plight, and vainly casting about for something to try next, Major Mayhew, Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said in the House of Commons: "We are knocking at a firmly closed door." Earl Winterton, also speaking in the House of Commons, said: "It's just a drop in the ocean of the world's misery. But nevertheless, I, although a politician, am horrified by the cruelty inflicted on these people."

### National Concern

ALTHOUGH every approach seems closed, the British keep on trying. The petitions of the 15 husbands have become a national concern, ranking high on any listing of topics under the heading of Anglo-Russian relations. It remains a live subject in newspapers and in Parliament. There was even a suggestion before Parliament adjourned that the plight of the Russian wives would take on the aspect of an international issue. There is strong support for the suggestion that the United Nations Human Rights Commission take an interest and introduce into a projected international code of human rights the right of any individual to leave any country.

The 15 desolate husbands have been drawn together in what amounts to a club. They meet frequently in the London flat of one of them, Alfred Hall, a clerk of the London County Council. Hall shows the latest photograph of his

Russian wife, Clara, and of their son, Nicholas, now going on three. They exchange the latest news, and recently got their heads together over a letter from Shura, wife of William Greenhalgh. She was waiting in Moscow, but her latest letter said: "I am being sent to Archangel—help me now."

Greenhalgh had made the rounds of all Russian authorities in London, so he hopped over to Paris to ask for a visa so that he might visit Moscow to handle whatever emergency seemed to be confronting Shura. He said that he was told to "apply for a visa next Spring."

### Other Worries

At their meetings, the husbands have other worries. Five of the 15 recently were informed that they must pay the usual Russian tax for being childless—about £250 a year. It is not easy at the moment to send non-convertible sterling to Russia. So, a delegation of husbands visited the Foreign Office to see whether the British Government could pay the tax in some way.

Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin was sympathetic, but the British Government could not help to pay. The husbands made other efforts. They sent a petition to King George VI, knowing perfectly well as they did that he is quite powerless in the matter. They pester everyone at the Russian Embassy; they look up and argue with every visitor from Russia, send messages with everyone going to Russia, and talk to Members of Parliament.

They are preparing another scheme. When Foreign Minister

Molotov comes to London for the Big Four Foreign Ministers' conference this month, they expect to remind him and his delegation as often and as emphatically as possible of their 15 wives in Russia. Hall said that they will attempt to interview Molotov.

Russian visitors hear about the wives the moment they leave their ships or planes. When Vyshinsky, on his way to America for the present meeting of the United Nations, held a press conference, the first question fired at him was about the wives the Soviets refuse to release. "I am far more interested," he answered, "in the 150,000 Russians in the British zone of Germany—who have not yet been released."

The reaction of British editorial columns and public leaders was prompt. "It was admitted that there was Latvians, Estonians, Lithuanians and undoubtedly some Russians in the British zone."

But, the situation, it was argued, were not at all similar. A Foreign Office spokesman pointed out that the great majority of Eastern displaced persons in the British zone were not Russians before the war. The Morning Advertiser added: "All of them are completely free to return to the Soviet Union, and some of them have done so. But the majority have no desire to go."

The British Government resisted all suggestions that they should be forced to go.

Vyshinsky's answer gave the husbands a new idea. Hall suggested that he and perhaps others of his group be given permission to visit the displaced persons camps, ascertain by interviews whether any are held against their will and help them to return to their old homes if they wish to do so. The suggestion is, among others, being considered.

There is a great deal of speculation in the press and elsewhere as to the reasons for the reluctance of the Russians to permit 15 obscure women to proceed to England. The argument that Russia needs all available workers is considered, but fifteen women are not many.

### Historical Parallel

ANOTHER explanation, advanced in some communications to newspapers, is that Russia, in the prevailing state of its international affairs, does not wish to send abroad persons who might bear tales or speak with intimate and accurate information of internal conditions.

A letter to The Times recalled that there is a historical parallel. A Danish ambassador married a Russian woman and sought permission to take her to his home. The Russian Foreign Office, according to the communication, to The Times, answered as follows:

"Inasmuch as it is not customary throughout our dominions that free people should be given into servitude, not only our own subjects but the people of other countries who are in our dominions, and since the woman in question can be a wife for us too, it is not fitting that we should send her away into servitude to your ambassador."

This was written, said the communication to The Times, in the year 1500.—Associated Press.

## 'MID-ATLANTIC MET'

**Basil Cardew explains how a weather ship came to be the parking ground for a crashed Boeing recently**

THE ambitious idea which placed a "met," (or meteorological) ship in mid-Atlantic was born in Montreal just 13 months ago. It was a brave and humane plan.

The nations flying the Atlantic between Iceland and the southern point of Spain arranged to span this 1,800 miles of ocean with a network of floating "islands." These ships should be ready to save life and aid Atlantic fliers.

Ten nations agreed to supply and maintain the rescue ship. Seven were to come from the United States; one from the U.S. and Canada jointly; two from Britain; one from Nor-

way, Sweden and Britain jointly; one from France; and one from Belgium and Holland together. Eire and Portugal agreed to help with money.

While the Americans are preparing their weather ships they are using naval cutters for the job. It was this type of ship that rescued the ditched American flight boat, the 2,500-ton U.S. cutter has a crew of 150 and four weather experts aboard.

### CREW OF 50

Britain has provided the only real weather ship—so far. The first left London's Shadwell Dock last July to take up station 300 miles west of Ireland.

Britain's first vessel is a 1,400-ton ex-cruiser of the Flower class, re-named Weather Observer. Stripped of her war trimmings and grey paint, she is now a vivid yellow. She is 205ft. long, has a speed of 16 knots, and carries a crew of 50 including seven meteorological experts and 13 radar and radio technicians.

The Weather Observer does a monthly tour. At three-hourly intervals while on duty she sends a radio commentary to the Air Ministry's central broadcasting office at Dunstable, Bedfordshire, on Atlantic weather.

Every six hours a hydrogen-filled balloon is released which gives automatic signals, by radio.

These show pressure, temperature, and humidity up to a height of 50,000 feet.

Apart from an echo sounder and Loran and gyro compass, the Weather Observer carries beacons to guide Transatlantic aircraft and other rescue aids for planes or shipping in distress.

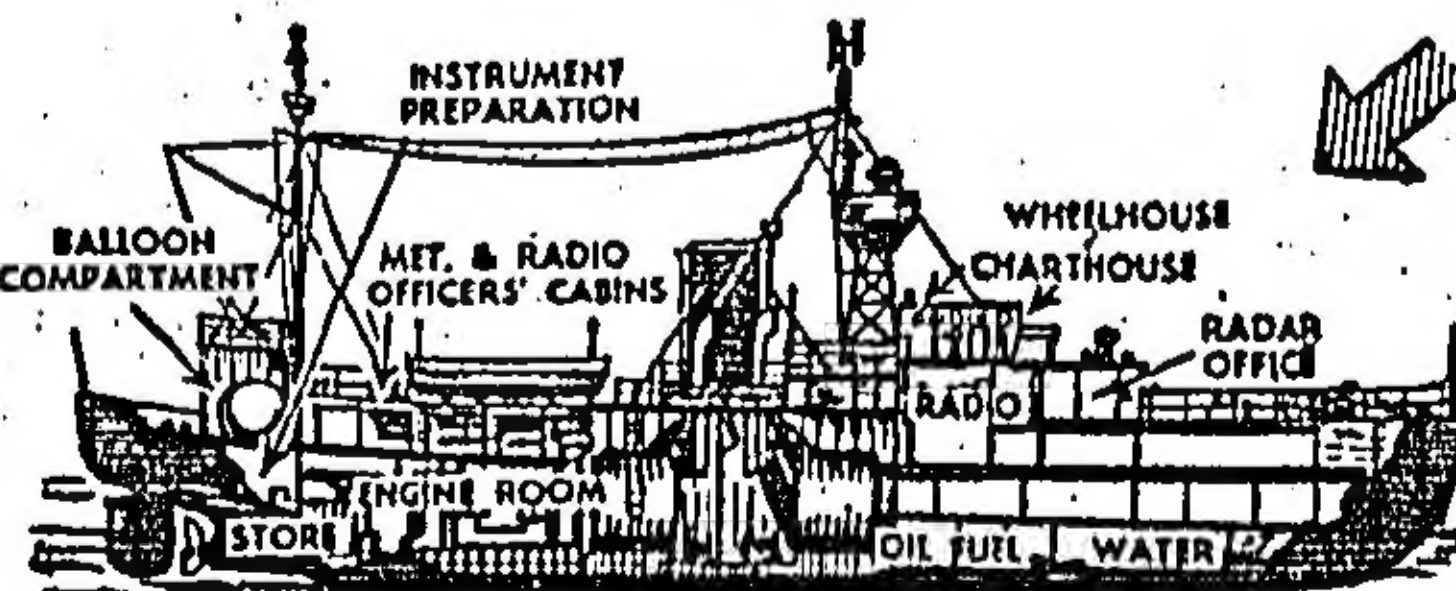
The ship can keep radio contact with the shore at ranges up to 500 miles and with shipping and aircraft in flight. A radar direction-finder is also installed. For rescue work the Weather Observer carries two petrol-driven 30ft. lifeboats, each capable of carrying 60 people.

### VOLUNTEERS

The weather office is a small room just about on the water-line on the port side. It has a large plotting table and a laboratory-like series of scientific apparatus. The "met," duties are carried out by four observers, all volunteers from the staff of the British Meteorological Office.

In command of Britain's first weather ship is 35-year-old Captain M. F. Ismet, a crippled D. S. C., a U-boat hunter during the war. Most of his crew are ex-naval and merchant seamen.

When the weather ship scheme is in full operation there will be 20 ships maintaining a night and day service throughout the year.



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By Ernie Bushmiller







## Gale Destroys 200 Villages

Rangoon, Nov. 13.—An official report today said 200 villages with 30,000 inhabitants were wiped out last week by a violent gale which struck the Sittoung hill region, in Northern Burma. The government is sending aid.

Other reports today said cyclones, razing the south-east Burma coast, destroyed an entire fishing village, caused three deaths and sank some 50 fishing vessels.—Associated Press.

## Monty Off On Tour Of Africa

Bassingbourne, Nov. 13.—Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, Chief of the Imperial General Staff, left the Royal Air Force station at Bassingbourne, Cambridgeshire, today in a York aircraft for a tour in Africa, with the object of visiting troops and military establishments and of discussing defence problems with Service chiefs in South Africa and other territories.

The visit to South Africa is being undertaken at the invitation of Field Marshal Jan Smuts, South African Prime Minister, and the Union Government.

Field Marshal Montgomery will leave his outward journey in West Africa to visit Gambia, the Gold Coast and Nigeria.

The first stop of his flight is to French Morocco.

On the homeward journey he will spend two days in Northern Rhodesia as the guest of the Governor, after which he will visit Kenya. From there he will fly to Addis Ababa at the invitation of Haile Selassie, Emperor of Abyssinia.

Finally, he will visit troops in the Sudan and the Suez Canal zone. The tour is expected to last about one month.

### Shape Of Postwar Army

Before taking off today, Lord Montgomery said in an interview: "Since the war ended I have visited many great countries. When I have finished my African tour I shall be in a far better position to be able to shape the postwar army than I was when war ended."

Lord Montgomery said that he had never before visited some of the countries included in the itinerary of the present tour, and commented that his knowledge of Africa was really limited to the strip between Egypt and Tunis, which he knew "fairly well."

This was actually his second visit to South Africa, he said. When he was a year old his father was made Bishop of Tasmania and the family sailed out there round the Cape.

## Yesterday's Wicket Made Donald Sigh

(BY "VERITAS")

"If only the wicket had been like this for the Interport," sighed Donald Leach yesterday morning as he watched Archie Sinclair and Len Stokes slamming the United Services bowling to the boundaries.

The Shanghai skipper had good reason for the sentiment. After the rain which fell on Wednesday, the Club wicket rolled out into a guileless, easy-paced pitch, which took a certain amount of spin after the sun had come out, but seldom, if ever, "kicked."

On this batsman's wicket and against not very inspired bowling, Archie Sinclair collected an aggressive 94 before lunch. Powerful hooking featured the innings which included a dozen boundaries. Later Pat Madar had a merry knock of 40 and Cunningham were able to declare at 254 for 7.

The Services did fairly well until the tea interval, Broadley especially being in fine trim, but the resumption of play saw the rest of the United Services' wickets fall for two additional runs and the team was out by 225 for 114.

Pat Madar with his innocent-looking flighted deliveries did the damage with 6 for 21. The game was given an interesting twist by the appearance on the field of father and son, playing against each other. Duncan Leach, Donald's eldest son, was included in the Services side. He bowled a dozen overs, the first three of which were quite creditable. Thereafter he lost his length and was hit rather mercilessly.

## DISTURBANCES IN FRENCH ASSEMBLY

Paris, Nov. 13.—In the French National Assembly, an uproar occurred tonight as right and left wing opponents shouted abuse across the floor of the Chamber when yesterday's disturbances in Marseilles were discussed.

M. Henri Bergasse, of the right wing Republican Liberty Party, touched off the fireworks by stating flatly that the disturbances were inspired largely by Communist trade union leaders.

In retaliation, M. Francois Billoux, a former Communist Minister, blamed leaders of the de Gaulle Rally of the French People, whom he referred to as those who want to give their own country to a foreign power.

M. Ramadier, the Premier, who asked that the discussions be delayed until at least November 21, told the deputies that the Government "cannot yet fully say what happened" in the Marseilles incidents in which one man was reported killed and scores of others injured, but he indicated that punishment would be administered following a full investigation.

### Assault On City Hall

The two main incidents in Marseilles yesterday were a Communist assault on the city hall and a fight in a night club district, where guns, knives and clubs were used. M. Billoux declared that the Prefect of the Marseilles Department and the Ministry of the Interior were also responsible for the incidents, and exclaimed, amid shouts of dissent from Socialist and Popular Republicans, that the Government had blood on its hands.

M. Ramadier then jumped up and said: "Although I do not know the details and the facts, I know that

the demonstrators were inspired by a political organization for which you have a responsibility."

M. Ramadier added that the incidents were against the French Republic and an insult would definitely be made. "We will go right to the end with this insult. If you want dictatorship, we shall fight it," he declared amid loud applause.

**Flags Torn Down**  
After he sat down, M. Billoux resumed his attack on the Rally of the French People.

The Socialist deputy, M. Gaston Defferre, a former Secretary of State, said that there is one significant factor about these maliciously prepared incidents. It is that the American and British flags which were hanging in the city hall for the Armistice were torn down.

The Assembly session terminated with the Government agreeing to discuss the Marseilles disturbances on Tuesday, November 18.—Reuter.

### Protest Strike

Marseilles, Nov. 13.—Communist labour leaders paralyse the port of Marseilles and brought the city to a standstill. A general strike tonight, the idea of a general strike tonight, troops and mobile guards, rushed here from other parts of France, here to maintain order and police massed before the prefecture to keep order after six hours of disturbances yesterday which resulted in one death, two persons badly injured and 30 to 50 less seriously hurt.

Food stores were closed and truck transport was halted by the strike. A confederation of labour met to vote on a call for a protest walk-out along more than 60 miles of industrialised coastline and numerous inland cities, such as Arles and Aix.—Associated Press.

### Clash Over Aid Plan

Paris, Nov. 13.—Communist and non-Communist leaders of the CGT (French Trade Union Confederation) clashed openly over the Marshall aid plan at the meeting of their National Committee today.

The Communist majority leader, M. Benoit Franchon, violently opposed the aid plan which M. Leon Jouhaux, leader of the non-Communist minority, said was essential if the standard of life of French workers was not to be reduced by at least one-third.

Jouhaux's challenge came shortly after the publication of a manifesto by the CGT Communist majority urging the formation of workers' groups in each factory to decide what action to take if the Government refused new wage increases.

An open fight now seemed possible between the Communists and the non-Communists inside the CGT, which might again give the question as it was in 1921 over the question of joining the Third International.

The Communist majority manifesto proposed that all workers, whether trade union members or not, should vote and that another meeting of the CGT National Committee should be held on December 19 to decide on action "in accordance with the opinions of workers democratically consulted."

**Sharp Opposition**  
This appeal to unorganised mass opinion has met with sharp opposition from the non-Communist minority inside the CGT, who see in it the grave danger of organising a national general strike on the basis of mass meetings under Communist auspices and bypassing the proper voting machinery of the trade union movement.

They also see it as part of the "war against Socialist parties" decided upon by the new Cominform organisation in Belgrade.

Communist-led riots in Marseilles yesterday and the attitude of the Communist leaders of the CGT have created considerable tension in French political quarters.

It was being freely stated today that M. Leon Blum would shortly be called upon by the President of the Republic to form a government which would not only receive the backing of the middle political parties in the National Assembly but also that of the large number of organised workers now in open revolt against Communist tactics and Communist domination of their trade unions.

**Heated Exchanges**  
In heated exchanges on the Marshall plan in the CGT National Committee session, M. Jouhaux said: "We need a certain number of raw materials which we can only find in the United States, and therefore we must find the credits of finance them."

While I am opposed to any conditions that would infringe on our national independence, I find myself obliged to accept the aid which is offered us and to accept it publicly."

M. Jouhaux's statement in favour of the Marshall plan was also signed by M. Louis Saliant, Secretary-General of the World Federation of Trade Unions, who has hitherto sided with the Communist majority.

The struggle between the two opposing elements in the CGT is reflected in the political field. After General Charles de Gaulle's caustic criticism of the Socialists and MRP (Popular Republican) parties yesterday, the Popular Republicans today urged the formation of a "strong and stable government to maintain order and ensure food supplies."

Among right-wing Socialists and Popular Republicans there is a desire to form a "strong" government without General de Gaulle.

To what lengths the Communists are prepared to go remains to be seen, but several papers today expressed the view that they would stop at nothing in an attempt to create disorder and undermine the Government.—Reuter.



## Vandenberg Wants Aid Repaid With Uranium

Washington, Nov. 13.—Chairman Arthur Vandenberg of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee today suggested that European countries be required to pay for United States aid with uranium.

## ANDRE GIDE AWARDED NOBEL PRIZE

Stockholm, Nov. 13.—The Swedish Academy announced today that the Nobel Prize for Literature for 1947 had been awarded to the French author, Andre Gide.

The Academy announced that the award went to Gide "for his far-reaching and artistically important authorship, in which human problems and conditions have been put forward with undaunted love of truth and psychological keenness."

Andre Paul Guillaume Gide, the eighth Frenchman to receive the Nobel Literature Prize, which was first awarded in 1901, will accept the award in a ceremony on December 10, the 51st anniversary of the death of Alfred Nobel, inventor of dynamite, who originated the peace prizes and other awards bearing his name.

Gide was born in Paris on November 21, 1869, and was educated there. He is the author of several plays, essays, biographies, and novels as well as of translations.

He wrote a biography of Oscar Wilde in 1910, and nine years later wrote "La Symphonie Pastorale," which later was filmed as being one of the most beautiful pictures ever produced in France.

The Nobel Literature prize carries an award of 146,115 Swedish kronor, equivalent to US\$40,030.—United Press.

## 2,000 JAPS CHARGED BY SOVIET

Tokyo, Nov. 13.—The Foreign Office spokesman told the Diet today that Russia so far had failed to answer the official Japanese inquiry aimed to clarify charges under which approximately 2,000 former Korean Government general officials—all Japanese nationals—are still being detained in Soviet territory.

Sakuta Kojima, chief of the Overseas Nationals Section, said he understood these former officials had been prosecuted for the crime of "having engaged in a vicious 'situation' of North Korea and subsequently the majority of them were transferred to Soviet territory and imprisoned."

He said the Soviet charge was revealed by recent reparations which brought copies of the indictment.

Approximately 700 Japanese nationals are still detained in northern Korea, according to disclosures by Yozaburo Imai, former president of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Pyongyang, who arrived in a repatriation ship.

Engineers and technicians were accorded cordial treatment, according to Imai, who said the majority would return next April. He added that some engineers expressed a desire to remain settled in Korea but that the Government had better feelings towards the Japanese.—United Press.

## SMUGGLING OF STREPTOMYCIN

San Francisco, Nov. 13.—A Federal Grand Jury today returned an indictment against Nicholas R. Benedetto, owner of the Pan-Pacific Trading Company of San Francisco, charging him with attempting to smuggle streptomycin into the Philippines under a penicillin label.

Federal agents seized 800 vials of the drug, whose export is under government control.

The shipment had a potential value of US\$40,000 on the Manila black market, according to the Assistant U.S. District Attorney, James Davis.—United Press.

## MIKOLAJCZYK GOING TO AMERICA

London, Nov. 13.—Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, Polish Peasant Party leader who fled last month from Poland, has applied for a visa to enter the United States.

Mikolajczyk's secretary said the self-exiled Polish leader hopes to leave next week for America.—Associated Press.

## Catholic Delegation At Buckingham Palace

London, Nov. 13.—A Roman Catholic delegation, headed by Cardinal Bernard Griffin, paid its respects to King George today on the approaching wedding of Princess Elizabeth.

Catholics had protested against the omission of the Church of Rome from the "privileged bodies" given direct access to the King on such occasions.

Buckingham Palace sources said it was the first appearance of the Catholic delegation among the privileged bodies for many generations, if not for the first time. Available records did not show any precedent in modern times.

Cardinal Griffin was accompanied by the Duke of Norfolk, hereditary Earl Marshal, premier Duke and Earl and Chief Butler of England, who is the nation's leading Catholic layman, Lord Pakenham and others.

At the same time, addresses of congratulations were received by the King in the throne room from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York, heading deputations from their provinces, and several privileged municipalities.

Meanwhile, the War Office announced the first official crack in the austerity keynote of the wedding with the word that the King had approved the full dress—glittering helmets, breast plates and brilliantly coloured uniforms—for the Household Cavalry escort which will take the royal carriages to and from Westminster Abbey.

**Social Activities**  
The week of social activities preceding the wedding opens tonight when Lord and Lady Mountbatten, accompanied by the Crown Princess of Sweden and other celebrities, attend the premiere of Sir Alexander Korda's new film, "An Ideal Husband."

It was the filming of the Household Cavalry in full dress for this film that led to the King's permission to dress up for the wedding.

More gifts arrived today, joining the fabulous array already presented to the Princess and her groom. The Prince of Wales sent a 24-piece Dresden porcelain tea set and a personal letter to the Princess.

Singapore has appropriated £28,000 for the royal wedding fund to be used in anti-tuberculosis work.—United Press.

**Mexico's Gift**  
London, Nov. 13.—A wedding gift for Princess Elizabeth arrived here by air today from Mexico.

The gift, a gold and turquoise oriental Mexican pendant, was flown from New York, locked in a special diplomatic bag.—Reuter.

**Floodlighting The Palace**  
London, Nov. 13.—A two-colour floodlighting scheme for Buckingham Palace has been planned for the day before and the night of Princess Elizabeth's wedding.

Posts round the Palace will fly white and mauve medalion-designs.

**CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE**  
Answers  
1. It was famous for runaway marriages of couples from just across the border in England.  
2. The lower house of the legislature of the Irish Free State.  
3. The ostrich.  
4. A frog.  
5. Currier Bell.  
6. In the Poets' Corner of Westminster Abbey.

ed flags inscribed "E.P." in gold. These are to be illuminated with coloured fluorescent lighting.

It is also learned that traffic arrangements include the use of 9,000 buses, coaches and trams.

Final plans for the decoration of the route have now been drawn up. Flags are to be flown from all buildings in Whitehall, window-boxes are to be smartened—many with chrysanthemums and draped with blue and gold banners while eight flags will fly across the top of Admiralty Arch.—Reuter.

### OUTWARD MAILS

Unless otherwise stated, registered articles and parcel posts close 30 minutes earlier than the ordinary mail. If mail close before 10 a.m. registered and parcels will close at 5 p.m. on previous day.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 14**  
Bangkok, Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Bahrain, Cairo (Nairobi, Johannesburg & Marseilles via Cairo), Augusta and London, 3.30 p.m.

Saigon and Paris, 3.30 p.m.  
Amoy, Shanghai, Hankow, Tientsin, Peking, Canton, Chungking and Swatow, 3.30 p.m.  
Hohow, 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times by Sea & Train  
Canton (Train) 7 a.m.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.  
Yokohama (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) Noon.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Swatow and Amoy (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Colombo and Bombay (Sea) 3 p.m.  
Canada (Parcel only) via Vancouver, B.C. (Sea) 3 p.m.

Manila, Australia and New Zealand via Sydney (Sea) 5 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi & Kongmoon (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 4 p.m.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 15**  
Closing Times by Air  
Shanghai, Hongkong, Calcutta, Karachi, Manila, P.I., Honolulu, USA & Canada, 11 a.m.

Canton, Kweilin and Chungking, 3.30 p.m.  
Shanghai, Nanking, Hankow, Tientsin and Peking, 3.30 p.m.

Closing Times by Sea & Train  
Canton (Train) 7 a.m.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 8 a.m.  
Yokohama (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Manila and Sourabaya (Sea) 10 a.m.  
Swatow (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin & Shekhi (Sea) 1 p.m.  
Canton (Train) 2 p.m.  
Hongkong (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Shanghai (Sea) 2 p.m.  
Strait (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Macao, Tientsin, Shekhi & Kongmoon (Sea) 4 p.m.  
Canton (Sea) 5 p.m.

### TO-DAY'S BROADCAST

H.K.T.  
9 Studio: Children's Half Hour: 6.20.  
B.B.C. Transcription Service: "The Grand Hotel" Albert Sandler & His Orchestra with Robert Irving in singing.  
"You Asked For It"—Variety Request Programme presented by Monica Jackson.  
10 London Relay: World and Home News.  
10.15 Studio: Vocal Recital by Gaila Hodgman (Soprano) with Piano accompaniment by Betty Brown.  
11 Sing Low: New Symphony Orchestra.  
11.15 A Chupin Programme by Benno Moisewitsch: 0.15. B.B.C. Transcription Service: The man without a name.  
12 Study of William Blake. From the book by Dr Bronowski: 10. London Relay: News: 10.10. Weather Report: 10.11. Max Bruch: Violin Concerto No 1 in G Minor. Symphony Orchestra: 10.25. Puccini: "La Tostca" Act 3. With Principals: Chorus and Orchestra of La Scala, Milan: 11. Close Down.

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